

CITY OF ROCKFORD

Garbage & Refuse Collection

Everything You Need to Know about Rockford Sanitation

This informational brochure is provided to explain the City of Rockford's Ordinance regulating garbage/rubbish. This is also an effort to improve the environment in our city.

Community & Economic Development
Neighborhood Standards
779-348-7444
815-967-4243 (fax)
www.rockfordil.gov



Excellence in Services

Garbage Can be a Serious Nuisance

- Poor sanitation is a general health hazard that can attract flies, mosquitoes, raccoons, rats, and other creatures that in turn can lead to the spread of disease.
- Garbage contains materials that can seep into and pollute our groundwater and surface waters.
- Poor sanitation is not pleasant for neighbors view and takes away from the beauty of our city.

Some property owners either store items outside and plan to eventually dispose of them. Unfortunately, accumulated garbage/rubbish affects neighbor relations and poses a threat to the public.

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- Place your garbage/bulk items out for weekly collection. Bulk items should also be stored in an inconspicuous area and NOT at the curb until the collection date. A small fee may applied for excessive amounts of bulk waste. For more information please call Rock River Disposal at 965-2489.
 - Refuse containers and garbage bags should be stored in a garage, shed or other inconspicuous location, generally out of sight from the street, until they can be properly placed at the curb for pickup.
 - Rock River Disposal will not pick up tires, used motor oil, paint, construction debris, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or more than 2.5 cubic yards of trash.
 - Please hire a private contractor to haul off large amounts of garbage and bulk items.

Other Options, Continued

Following are some alternatives for special types of unwanted materials:

Televisions/Computers/Misc. Electronics

Best Buy

- 281 Deane Drive (815-395-8405)
- Call prior to drop-off for restrictions

Office Max/Office Depot

- 87 E State St (815-394-0044)
- See store associate for Tech Recycling Box (\$5 - \$15)

Rockford Computers for Schools

- 7200 Clinton Road - Loves Park, IL (
- Donations accepted Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm and Saturdays 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Car Batteries

- AutoZone/O'Reilly Auto Parts Stores (Receive a \$5 merchandise card)
- Advanced Auto Parts Stores
- Interstate Battery Company (815-874-7030)

Tires

S.T.A.R Used Tire

- 420 Harrison Avenue. (Call first 815-543-3164)

Miscellaneous Household Wastes/Recyclables

Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (815-637-1343)

- See www.knib.org for full list of programs and recycling options, including special events for recycling metals, pharmaceuticals, clothing, Christmas trees, and several other common household items
- KNIB Rockford Recycle Center
4665 Hydraulic Road

Other Disposal Options

Following are some alternatives for special types of unwanted materials:

For Bulk Items

Winnebago Landfill Company (winnebago-landfill.com)

- 8403 Lindenwood Road (call first 815-874-4806)
- No yard or electronic waste accepted

For Yard/Landscaping Waste

Rock River Valley Compost

- 6200 Baxter Road (call first 815-874-5870)
- \$10.00 minimum for the first 400 lbs. Then .025¢ /lb for each additional lb.
- Yard/landscape waste only accepted in approved landscape waste bags or bulk. No material larger than 6 to 8 inches in diameter and longer than 6 to 8 feet. No rocks, dirt, sod, fencing, manufactured wood products (colored mulch, railroad ties, landscaping timbers) accepted

For Metal Recycling

Behr Iron & Metal

- 1100 Seminary Street (call first 815-987-2755)
- Some scrap metals/materials may be purchased from customers

S & S Recycling

- 222 18th Avenue (call first 815-964-4243)
- Pay cash for aluminum, brass, copper wire, stainless steel, electronic motors, and other misc. metals

KNIB Rockford Recycle Center

- 4665 Hydraulic Road
- Will accept some metals, electronics at the Recycle Center
- Call or check website for restrictions and dates for Metals and Electronics Recycling Drives (815-637-1343 / KNIB.org)

Weekly Garbage/Refuse Pick up

Garbage pick up is scheduled between Monday and Thursday, excepting holidays. For holidays falling on these days garbage pick-up will be one day later. All garbage must be contained in a garbage can, or a sealed bag. Garbage cans should not exceed 40 gallons in size and may not weigh more than 50 lbs when full. Loose materials will not be collected. All cans should be placed within 4 feet of your curb and should not be placed near any stationary objects such as mailboxes, trees, etc.

Containers must be removed from the curb/alley and returned to a storing location by 8 am the day following pick up.

Garbage pickup does not occur on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



Weekly Compost/Yard Waste Pick up

Yard waste is all grass clippings, leaves and small branches from a residential property. Yard waste collection typically occurs from the beginning of April to the end of November and is collected on same day as regular garbage. All trimmings from bushes and small tree branches need to be bundled in 3 - 4 foot lengths with branches no thicker than 4 inches in diameter and not weighing over 25 lbs. Sticks, twigs, brush, etc. must be bundled with string or twine, not wire. No plastic bags of any kind will be accepted for pick up and all refuse cans must be 30 gallons or less in capacity. There is a 50 lb weight limit for all biodegradable 2-ply bags and cans, which must be marked with an "X".



Compost/yard waste will not be accepted if garbage is intermixed, if placed in plastic bags, if bundled with wire, or if bundles are larger than the designated size. Degradable twine is best used for bundling branches. Citizens should not place or allow for loose leaves or grass clippings to accumulate in the public street or sidewalk area. Excessive yard waste cannot be handled by street sweepers and will clog the storm sewer system, allowing for flooding during precipitation events and during snow melt.

Fall Leaf Collection: It is illegal to burn leaves. Leaves will be collected for composting on your normal collection day. The proper containers are a 40 gallon biodegradable 2-ply paper bag or a standard garbage can with a bold "X" on the side of the can facing the street. Citizens should not sweep loose leaves into the public street.



Reasons for Hoarding

There are several reasons people tend to hoard:

- Keeping perceived “valuables”
- Items provide a false sense of security
- Fear of forgetting or losing items
- Physical limitations or frailty prevent removal of items.
- Animal hoarding attempts to replace human interaction

Often hoarders have similar living conditions:

- Little or no support from family
- Isolation or mistrust of others
- Minimal or no medical care
- Injuries are commonplace
- Poor physiological health
- Loss of loved ones

How You Can Help

Cleaning up a home with severe hoarding issues takes time, with slow and gradual steps for creating change. Obstacles that may be encountered include the inability to gain entrance to the home, the initial scale of inspection, a lengthy cleanup process and the cost of clean up. If you have a friend or loved one that has a hoarding problem, there are several local counseling services available that can be reached out to for assistance.



Hoarding Issues

Hoarding is the excessive collection and retention of items or animals. Approximately 20% of all housing complaints deal with some degree of hoarding. Hoarding is a serious problem; it causes severe sanitation issues and hazards to life and safety. Hoarding can cause confined sleeping areas and windows or other possible entrances/exits to become obstructed. Fire hazards are common, and hoarding is a harbor for insects, rodents and snakes that can affect the entire neighborhood.

Animal hoarding is the inability to provide even minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, shelter and veterinary care. Animal hoarding causes unsanitary living conditions for both pets and their owners. Physical damage to the residence by animals is common, and animal hoarding creates a conducive setting for disease to both the animals and residents.

Residents with hoarding issues often have their utilities shut off. Appliances and facilities are often inoperable or inaccessible, such as stoves, refrigerators, sinks, toilets and/or showers. Unsanitary conditions expose residents and neighbors to illness and disease.

Because homes with hoarding issues are more likely to have emergency issues, first response teams such as police, fire and EMT's are at higher risk of injury due to the large quantities of garbage.



Weekly Recycling Pick up

Rockford residents are not required to recycle, however, the City encourages all residents to take advantage of the program. Each household is furnished with a blue 32-gallon recycling bin from Rock River Disposal. If you need a recycling bin call 815-965-2489. Aluminum and tin cans, glass jars and bottles, aerosol cans, coded plastics #1 - #7, and 6 and 12 pack rings will be accepted.

All containers should be rinsed, caps removed, and placed loosely in a bin. If you have excess recyclables, they may be placed in a paper bag and set next to the bin.

Newspapers, paper, magazines, and phone books should be placed in a paper bag and set next to the bin. Cardboard and paperboard must be flattened and bundled with string or twine, not wire. The bundles should be no larger than 4' in length or a 3'x3' cross section. These also should be set next to the recycling bin. Recyclables will be collected on your regular garbage day.



Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Facilities

Rockford residents can dispose of household hazardous waste at the Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Center at 3333 Kishwaukee St. (Rock River Water Reclamation District), Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays.

Common Accepted Materials*:

- aerosols
- corrosives
- oxidizers
- solvents
- oil-based paints
- waste/used oils
- pesticides
- batteries
- fluorescent lamps
- up to 4 used tires
- insulin disposal

Unaccepted Materials*:

- radioactive waste
- compressed gases/containers
- explosives
- 55 gallon drums
- pharmaceuticals

*List is an overview and not comprehensive.

A more comprehensive listing of acceptable and unacceptable materials can be viewed at the Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful Website: <http://www.knib.org/recycling/green-guide/household-hazardous-waste-site/>

The facility is available to all residential parties within the State of Illinois. No waste generated from commercial or industrial sources will be accepted.

Weekly Bulk Item Pick up

Bulk items are household items that are too large to be placed in a garbage can or bag. Items containing freon (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, etc.) will be accepted only if they are certified freon free by a licensed refrigeration technician.

Building and remodeling materials, automobile parts, oil, tires, liquid waste, and paint thinner will not be accepted. Bulk items will be collected each week on the same day and placed as refuse.



Property Maintenance Codes

The City of Rockford's Property Maintenance Code Section 302.1 regarding garbage and rubbish states: all exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition and free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage. Neighborhood standards may order the removal of debris in accordance with Illinois Compiled Statutes, Chapter 65, Sections 5/11-20-13. When the accumulation of debris endangers the public health and safety or when there is actual or potential danger in the proximity of dwellings and/or the public right-of-way, the code official may cause removal of debris and the cost of such removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the garbage and debris is located.

The City of Rockford's Ordinance 25-32 regarding setting refuse out for collection states: Refuse shall be placed out for collection no earlier than 3:00 pm of the day before the collection day and no later than 6:00 am on the day of scheduled collection. Containers shall be returned to their original location by 8:00 am of the day following collection.

You may file a complaint if you believe a property to be in violation of the codes by calling Neighborhood Standards at 779-348-7444, or online at: www.rockfordil.gov

City of Rockford
Community & Economic Development Department
Neighborhood Standards Division
425 E. State Street, 1st floor
Rockford, IL 61104

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Excellence in Services